

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8059

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2868

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PDIP, PERP, LE, IS, PLO

SUBJ: BEIRUT PRESS ON GUYER'S VISIT TO BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 2844

1. SUMMARY: BEIRUT PRESS SUGGESTS THAT UN REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTO GUYER SOUGHT TO TALK AROUND APPARENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN UNIFIL MISSION IN SOUTH LEBANON AND INTERESTS OF PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT, AND REPORTS DIFFERENCE OF OPINIONS ON QUESTION OF CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF CAIRO ACCORDS WITHIN LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO RESPECTED INDEPENDENT ARABIC DAILY AN NAHAR MAY 22, CITING "WELL-INFORMED POLITICAL SOURCES," GUYER, IN HIS MEETINGS HERE WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS AND OTHER
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LEBANESE, STRESSED THAT UNIFIL HAD TWO MISSIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON: 1) TO ENSURE COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL; AND 2) TO ASSIST THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES TO RESTORE THEIR SOVEREIGNTY IN THAT AREA. GUYER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE TWO OBJECTIVES REQUIRED HALTING ANY KIND OF ARMED PRESENCE OR INFILTRATION. HE THEN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT INTEND

TO INFRINGE UPON THE PALESTINIANS OR THEIR CAUSE. GUYER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IF LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENTS ARE SO IMPORTANT OR COMPLICATED THAT THEY CANNOT BE ABROGATED, THEN THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES SHOULD "FREEZE" IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE CLAUSES WHICH RELATE TO THE SOUTH UNTIL THE UN ACHIEVES ITS MISSION. THEREAFTER, THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE FREE TO IMPLEMENT THE LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENTS AS THEY SAW FIT. GUYER REPORTEDLY URGED THE LEBANESE TO SEND REGULAR ARMY UNITS TO THE SOUTH, WITH THE HELP OF THE UN FORCES, AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE RESTORATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY.

3. ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR, "WELL INFORMED SOURCES" SAY THAT THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AGREED WITH GUYER'S INTERPRETATION OF THE SITUATION. THEY REPORTEDLY "PROMISED TO SOLVE PENDING OBSTACLES AND EXERT UTMOST EFFORTS TO SPEED UP THE DISPATCH OF LEBANESE ARMY UNITS TO THE SOUTH AFTER, OF COURSE, OBTAINING THE NECESSARY GUARANTEES TO FACILITATE THE TASKS OF THESE FORCES." AN NAHAR SAID, NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE TWO CONFLICTING POINTS OF VIEW WITHIN THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE APPLICABILITY OF THE CAIRO ACCORD: 1) THAT THE CAIRO ACCORD IS NON-EXISTENT UNTIL UNIFIL ACHIEVES ITS MISSION; 2) PRIME MINISTER HOSS'S VIEW, THAT THE CAIRO ACCORD (EVER SINCE THE 1976 RIYADH AND CAIRO SUMMIT MEETINGS) IS AN ARAB AFFAIR, AND THEREFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A "SWIFT AND EFFECTIVE DIALOGUE . . .
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WITH THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE TO DEFINE THE NEW LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS."

4. LEFTIST AL LIWA REPORTED THAT GUYER DID NOT REPEAT NOT ASK THE GOL TO ABROGATE THE CAIRO ACCORD. ACCORDING TO AL LIWA, A LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE WOULD START SOON, WITH THE PALESTINIAN SIDE REPRESENTED BY YASIR ARAFAT, ABU IYAD, ZUHAIR MOHSEN, SAAD SAYEL, TALAL NAJI AND ABU MEIZAR. THE LEBANESE SIDE WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY PRIME MINISTER HOSS, INTERIOR MINISTER SALMAN AND ADF COMMANDER SAMI KHATIB.

5. COMMENT: THIS ACCOUNT SUBSTANTIALLY TRACKS WITH ACCOUNT OF GUYER'S VISIT AS TOLD BY UN POLITICAL ADVISOR TO EMBOFF (REFTEL). LANE

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